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ACTION EA-12
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FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5394
INFO AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU POUCH)
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL SHANGHAI POUCH)
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIJING 9949
CINCPAC FOR POLAD
E.O. 12065: GDS 9/14/87 (FREEMAN, CHARLES W., JR.) OR-M
TAGS: PINT, KN, KS, XB, XE, CH, UR, ECON, PEPR
SUBJ: (C) AMERICAN PROFESSORS VISIT NORTH KOREA
1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)
2. SUMMARY: WE WERE ABLE TO TALK BRIEFLY WITH TWO [ ] PROFESSORS PASSING THROUGH BEIJING FROM PYONGYANG ENROUTE TO SEOUL VIA TOKYO. THE TWO COMMENTED THAT THE STANDARD OF LIVING IN NORTH KOREA SEEMED HIGHER THAN IN CHINA. NORTH KOREANS CONTINUE TO REFER TO KIM CHONG-IL AS THE "DEAR LEADER" AND HIS FATHER AS THE "GREAT LEADER." DPRK PROPAGANDA IDENTIFIES KIM CHONG-IL WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THE NORTH KOREANS PREDICTABLY

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ADVOCATED THE "OPENING UP OF NEW CHANNELS" TO THE U.S., AND USED MODERATE LANGUAGE IN REFERRING TO THE ROK GOVERNMENT. THEY SOUGHT TO PORTRAY NORTH KOREA AS A NON-ALIGNED COUNTRY AND STRESSED PYONGYANG'S INDEPENDENCE FROM BOTH CHINA AND THE SOVIET UNION. END SUMMARY.
3. PROFESSORS [ ] STOPPED IN BEIJING [ ] ENROUTE TO SOUTH KOREA VIA TOKYO AFTER A TWELVE-DAY VISIT TO NORTH KOREA. THEY MET BRIEFLY WITH EMBOFF [ ] TO DISCUSS THEIR TRIP.

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4 BOTH PROFESSORS SAID THE KOREANS CAST KIM CHONG-IL AS THE "DEAR LEADER" AND HIS FATHER AS THE "GREAT LEADER." PROPAGANDA IDENTIFIED KIM CHONG-IL MORE WITH PROGRAMS OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND LESS SO WITH NATIONAL DEFENSE.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY HSO DATE 5/21/81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

EXCISE

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5. THE STANDARD OF LIVING APPEARED HIGHER THAN IN CHINA. THE NORTH KOREANS TOLD [redacted] THAT PYONGYANG WANTS FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND WILL PROVIDE "PROTECTION" FOR SUCH INVESTMENT. b-1, Ed

6. THE NORTH KOREANS MAINTAINED THAT NORTH KOREA, THOUGH A SOCIALIST COUNTRY, IS A LEGITIMATE MEMBER OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT AND A DEVELOPING COUNTRY. ACCORDING TO THE PROFESSORS' HOSTS, NORTH KOREA VALUES ITS INDEPENDENCE FROM BOTH CHINA AND THE USSR. REFERRING TO CHINA AS "A LARGE COUNTRY ON OUR BORDERS," ONE NORTH KOREAN SAID NORTH KOREA AND CHINA HAD "TAKEN DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO THE QUESTION OF LEADERSHIP." THE PROFESSORS SAID THE NORTH KOREANS COMMONLY DESCRIBE THE SOVIET UNION AS A "DOMINATING"

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COUNTRY (IN CHINESE "ZHIPEI ZHUYI"), RATHER THAN AS "HEGEMONISTIC" (BAQUAN ZHUYI), A TERM THE CHINESE COMMONLY USE IN DESCRIBING THE SOVIETS. ALTHOUGH THE CONTENT OF THE TWO WORDS IS ESSENTIALLY THE SAME, THE AMERICANS REGARDED THE DIFFERENT USAGE AS INDICATIVE OF KOREAN INDEPENDENCE.

7. THE NORTH KOREANS TOLD THE TWO PROFESSORS THAT NORTH KOREA WOULD LIKE TO "OPEN UP NEW CHANNELS" WITH THE U.S. THROUGHOUT THE VISIT, NORTH KOREAN HOSTS USED MODERATE LANGUAGE IN REFERRING TO THE SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT.

8. ON ATMOSPHERICS, [redacted] SAID THE NORTH KOREANS OBVIOUSLY WANTED TO ACCORD THEM HIGH-LEVEL TREATMENT -- A "TWO MERCEDES" VISIT, [redacted] THE AMERICANS ASKED A NUMBER OF TIMES FOR APPOINTMENTS WITH COUNTERPART NORTH KOREAN SCHOLARS. THEIR HOSTS -- EVEN WHILE CONSTANTLY REITERATING THAT THE AMERICANS COULD Z WHATEVER THEY WISHED -- REJECTED THESE REQUESTS. THE RIGID SCHEDULE REMAINED A SENSITIVE ISSUE THROUGHOUT THE VISIT, THE AMERICANS SAID. AT TIMES THEY SAW THEIR HOSTS ARGUING VEHEMENTLY AMONG THEMSELVES OVER WHETHER A PARTICULAR REQUEST COULD BE MET. WHEN EMBOFF ASKED THE TWO AMERICANS FOR THEIR STRONGEST IMPRESSION OF THE TRIP, ONE ASSERTED IT WAS THEIR HOSTS' "RUDENESS."

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